

Church. Earning his B.A. at Kilroe Seminary of the Sacred Heart in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, his Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree from Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, and his Masters in Religious Education from the University of Detroit, Father Donlan spent an early part of his career as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Detroit, Michigan. He then moved on to serve the Church in Mississippi and Florida, eventually moving to Brooksville, Florida where he has been Pastor at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brooksville for the past 14 years.

Father Donlan joined St. Anthony's Parish following service as the Parochial Administrator at St. Jerome Church in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. Loved by his parishioners from throughout Hernando County, Father Donlan has fostered a spirit of unity throughout the Church with his good deeds and kind words. In fact, since his appointment 14 years ago, the number of registered families in the parish has grown to more than one thousand three hundred, including this member of Congress and her husband. Having listened to his homilies for many years, I can tell you that he preaches from the heart and speaks the true word of Jesus Christ.

In addition to his decades of service, Father Donlan has been very involved in local church and civic organizations. This volunteerism includes service as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Brooksville Ministerial Association for 10 years, the Vicar Forane of the Hernando Deanery of Catholic Churches, and volunteer efforts at area nursing homes and health care facilities.

For the past 40 years, Father Donlan has tended to the needs of his congregation. As a part of his ministry, he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help his Church grow and prosper. One example of his devotion was the creation of a Wailing Wall in the Church. Designed after the original Western Wall of the old temple in Jerusalem, the wall is designed to receive petitions that are burned each month during the celebration of Mass.

Madam Speaker, Father Donlan's dedication to the Lord and to the Catholic Church has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. His ministry has touched the hearts of many, and the Church has continued to grow under his leadership. Father Donlan is to be commended for his years of service, his commitment to the Lord, and for serving the men and women who rely on his counsel and wisdom. Father Donlan is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and he is to be commended on the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the Catholic Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 18, 2007, I inadvertently missed the vote on Passage of H.R. 1852, The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, rollcall vote 876. It was my strong intention to vote "aye" on Passage.

PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, for purposes of the record, I would like to register my opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007.

I would like the record to further reflect that while I do support comprehensive patent reform, I cannot support legislation that so dramatically picks winners and losers.

My opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, stems from concerns raised that this legislation could actually undermine the value of patents, as well as innovative work conducted by universities, biotech facilities, and other companies.

Many Missourians understand that research could be impeded by the passage of this bill.

Indeed, a growing number of researchers and businesses agree that greater protections need to be put in place, but not in a way that risks existing patents or denies access for judicial relief.

A strict one size fits all approach to this problem creates more problems than it cures, and puts companies in certain industries at an unfair disadvantage.

I hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the disadvantages placed on certain industries are remedied, and that we have a patent reform bill that protects all U.S. businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 18, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on approving the Journal, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, and H. Res. 650 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 870 on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 871 on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 872 on H. Res. 650, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO THE CUSIMANO FAMILY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Cusimano family as they and our community gather this month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary.

The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary was founded in 1957 by Joseph and Sue Cusimano in Mountain View, California. Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. DENNIS PLANN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Dennis Plann. After decades of dedication to the agriculture industry serving the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Dennis Plann decided to retire in August of 2007.

A native of California's Central Valley, Dennis attended Fresno State University. While attending school, Dennis harvested oat, hay, cotton and alfalfa on 90 acres of his family's land. After graduation, Dennis quickly found work as an agricultural inspector, and through this experience he continued to move up the ladder in his career.

During his tenure at the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Dennis worked to ensure regulations were being followed, helped farmers to handle crises effectively, and interacted with the media extensively. The Central Valley as well as the entire California agricultural community benefited from Mr.